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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

MEXICAN TRADE.

THE Statistical Bureau of the Treasury Department of Mexico has just issued a statistical abstract of the exports from that country for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891. It appears therefrom that the United States are fast absorbing the Mexican trade. The total exports for that year amounted to \$63,276,395.34, and the share therein of this country was \$44,983,086.37, or 71.09 per cent. of the whole. Next comes England, whose share of Mexican products is valued at \$10,882,728.33, or 17.20 per cent.; in the third place is France, with the sum of \$3,653,551.33, or 5.77 per cent.; in the fourth place comes Germany, with \$2,785,874.86, or 4.40 per cent., and Spain, with \$515,193.74, or 0.81 per cent.; then Holland, Russia, and Italy, the three with only \$192,851.65, or 0.30 per cent.; and finally Guatemala, Colombia, Nicaragua, Salvador, and China, all with \$262,264.06, or 0.43 per cent.

Notwithstanding the restrictive measures recently adopted in the United States against the importation of Mexican lead ores and live animals, the increase of trade with Mexico has been steady since the building of railroads which connect both countries, as is shown by the following table:

MEXICAN EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES DURING THE LAST SIX YEARS.

1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.
\$25,429,594.56	\$21,728,714.79	\$31,059,626.66	\$40,853,362.74	\$43,022,440.67	\$44,983,086.37
58.26 per ct.	56.37	63.54	67.91	68.84	71.09

The export trade with the leading European commercial nations during the last six fiscal years is as follows:

	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.
England	\$11,600,067.74	\$13,362,186.57	\$10,540,965.23	\$12,535,534.99	\$13,722,122.52	\$10,882,728.33
	26.57 per ct.	27.17	21.56	20.84	21.96	17.20
France..	3,936,276.78	5,112,521.14	4,474,723.31	3,196,038.33	3,159,259.50	3,653,551.33
	9.01 per ct.	10.39	9.15	5.81	5.05	5.77
Germany.	1,571,399.20	2,175,770.11	2,177,106.09	2,061,563.09	1,693,773.15	2,785,874.86
	3.60 per ct.	4.42	4.45	3.43	2.71	4.40
Spain...	913,523.78	625,293.84	457,842.02	659,330.96	534,057.27	515,193.74
	2.09 per ct.	1.27	0.94	1.10	0.85	0.81

Of the total exports for the fiscal year 1890-91, \$36,256,372.16 were in precious metals and \$27,020,023.13 in other commodities. The United States received of the former \$23,400,832.94, which is equivalent to 64.54 per cent., and of the latter \$21,582,253.43, or 79.88 per cent.

The articles exported from Mexico during the last year were as follows:

Precious metals	\$ 6,256,372.16	Lead	\$1,125,468.64
Heniquen	7,048,556.76	Tobacco.....	1,105,446.73
Coffee.....	6,150,358.72	Other articles.....	8,058,836.56
Hides and skins.....	1,804,828.69		
Sundry woods.....	1,726,527.08	Total.....	\$63,276,395.34

The preceding tables show that while the Mexican export trade with the leading commercial nations of Europe remains, in some cases, stationary, in others increases in a small degree, and in some diminishes, that trade with the United States marks a very rapid and decided growth, due, specially, no doubt, to the contiguity of territory, and the different nature of the products of each. I think it very likely that the participation of the United States in the Mexican commerce will grow larger every year in proportion to the development of the country, and keep pace with the results shown during the last year, unless it be checked by restrictive legislation on the part of either government, which I hope will not be the case.

Referring to the export trade of the United States with Mexico, I am sure that a similar increase will substantially appear during the fiscal year of 1890 to 1891. The last published report of the Statistical Bureau of Mexico corresponds to the year ending June 30, 1889, and shows a discrepancy with that of the Treasury Department of the United States for the same year, arising from the fact that in the latter only such articles as go to Mexico by sea are considered, no notice being taken of those going by rail over the border, and most of the commodities imported into Mexico from the United States go now through the frontier, transported by the railways which connect the two countries. In the United States Statistical report for that year, for instance, the total imports into Mexico, amount to \$11,486,896, while in the Mexican report they foot up to \$22,669,421. The former bureau fixes the exports to Mexico for the last fiscal year (1890-1891) at \$14,969,620, but I am sure this amount is hardly one half of the real exports, as the exports by rail are not considered at all. In comparing the exports and imports of this country to and from Mexico, the fact must not be overlooked that the exports from Mexico are given in the Mexican report in Mexican silver, while the imports from this country into Mexico are stated in United States money, or gold, and the difference between these metals is now at about 35 to 40% in favor of gold.

The Statistical Bureau of the Treasury Department of the United States has always acknowledged these facts and earnestly tried, although so far unsuccessfully, to mend them. The Chief of that Bureau in his annual report on the foreign commerce of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1891, says (page 13):

"6. The statistics of exports of domestic commodities to Mexico and to Canada by land are defective, owing to the fact that there is no law requiring railway companies to furnish to collectors of customs statistics of domestic merchandise transported over their roads to these foreign countries."

The same official says in a foot note (page 111) in his quarterly report of the imports and exports of the United States for the three months ending September 30, 1891:

"In the absence of law providing for the collection of statistics of exports to adjacent foreign territory, over railways, the values of exports to Mexico are considerably understated. The official Mexican statistics state the value of the imports of merchandise from the United States in 1888 as \$19,226,311, and for 1889 as \$22,632,693. Statistics of their imports for later years have not been received. Substituting for our imperfect exports the imports from the United States as reported by the Mexican Government, it will appear that the value of our exports to Mexico about equals the value of our imports from that country."

M. ROMERO.